

DISTRICT VI ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes

Monday
December 1, 2003
7:00 p.m.

Evergreen Recreation Center
2700 N. Woodland
Lounge Clubroom

The District VI Advisory Board Meeting was held at 7:00 P.M. at Evergreen Recreation club lounge room. In attendance were the District VI City Council Member, ten (10) District Advisory Board Members (1) youth DAB member, seven (7) city staff, and nine (9) citizens. Approximately 27 were in attendance.

Members Present

Council Member Sharon Fearey
Rosalie Bradley
Sandra Whittington
Maurine Willis
Bob Wine
Dick Rumsey
John Guthridge-alternate
Bickley Foster
Rob Johnson- alternate
Jaya Escobar
Rick Shellenbarger
Daniel Ramirez- youth

Member Absent

Annie Best
Bob Schreck

Guests

Listed at end

Staff

Officer Paul Kimble, Patrol North
Officer Glen Kyle Patrol West
Terri Dozal, Neighborhood Assistant
Lt. Brent Allred, Police
Deb Legge, OCI
Randy Sparkman, OCI
Rob Younkin, Public Works

Council Member Fearey called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. and welcomed guests. DAB members were asked to introduce themselves and the area they represented.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for November 3, 2003 were approved as submitted (**Rumsey/Willis 10-0**)

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the following amendments. (**Wine/Whittington 10-0**)

- Dan Fitzgerald would present on the "Celebrate Safely" campaign
- Erika Spencer would present on the YMCA

PUBLIC AGENDA

Dan Fitzgerald 1309 N. Topeka presented on the *Celebrate Safely* campaign that started 9 years ago in the Historic Midtown area. *Celebrate Safely* is to stop gunfire as a form of celebrating New Years Eve. *Fitzgerald* stated this was now a campaign used all over the nation. Stray bullets can critically injure someone. I'm here tonight asking for everyone's participation in this campaign and if anyone is interested in passing out flyers through the neighborhood on December 29th. **Council Member Fearey** thanked *Fitzgerald* for his efforts and stated this project has really grown. A question was how do you tell the difference between gunshots or fireworks? *Fitzgerald* stated that is was difficult to explain, but there is a difference. You could call the phone numbers on the flyers and get an explanation from them. **Member Bradley** asked where do you pick up the flyers to hand out on the 29th? Contact Karole Bradford at Interfaith Ministries

Ken Thomas, Treatco owner commented on the trains that sit on the railroad tracks at 21st street for long periods of time. *Thomas* suggested if there could be some form of timer to watch how long the trains actually sit on the tracks and included Officer Franco continued to work

with the companies about the timing which seems to be getting better. *Thomas* concern is also if chemicals were on the trains and an accident occurred, how would this be handled? In case of an emergency there is great concern for safety. **Member Shellenbarger** referred to the 1999 Comprehensive Plan discussing 25th & Broadway on the study of elevated rail tracks.

Erica Spencer: YMCA - Membership director discussed the programs available for youth, adults and families. The programs include field trips- bowling- skating-Splash, which is swimming for 2nd graders in low-income areas. The YMCA offers financial assistance and discounts for membership. *Spencer* said working out & exercising assist with great character development. In the Evergreen area, we are looking to start a program for Hispanic Achievers - like the Black Achievers program. This program assists 13-17 year olds to learn job skills.

Monique Garcia, Health Department assisting in representation for the YMCA commented when the Surgeon General was here, the Black Achievers were bussed to hear his speech with no cost to the teens or their families. These are additional programs of interest we try and involve the youth in.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

1. Community Police Report

Officer Glen Kyle, Patrol West 11 Beat: reported on more graffiti in Riverside park. You can read in the Riverside Booster about the Judge Program, it assists in finding out what liquor stores will sell to underage clients. I'm still working on 21st & West Street to improve the traffic problems including speeding.

Officer Paul Kimble, Patrol North 42 Beat: reported on the homicide at the NOA II club. The suspect is in custody and detectives are still investigating. At 21st & Broadway, we have been working robbery detail as there have been several robberies along that area.

The train-crossing situation at 21st street is continuing to be looked at by Officer Franco. December 18th there will be a meeting with the train officials about not blocking the tracks more than 10 minutes. I-235 and North of Meridian we continue to ticket cars. Also this is the season for Christmas Crusade. Christmas Crusade recognizes families through police officers as needing gifts for children and some families may need other assistance such as food or clothing. If you are interested you can donate funds or toys by contacting- KYQQ KFDI- T-95radio stations.

Member Rumsey asked if Police would report back on success of the December 18th meeting on the train situation. **Member Shellenbarger** stated it was his responsibility as a County employee in his job position to also assist at the December 18th train meeting.

*******Action Taken: Receive and file**

2. Wichita Police Department Professional Standards Bureau (PSB)

Lt Brent Allred, discussed changes in the PSB in the last two years. PSB is a complaint process for reporting any alleged misconduct from police officers. Two years ago, Captain Zumalt came to the DAB's to ask for input in this process. *Allred* stated community trust was very important for making this process work. The following are a few improvements/changes that have been introduced:

- Complaints can be filed by e-mail also compliments for some positive action by officers
- More training for supervisors and supervisors are to recognize positive behavior
- New policy for racial profiling, the officer is to report to the PSB in these instances
- 30 - day time frame on all investigations including notifying employees and the citizen of the outcome
- now PSB is a one-stop shop. No second phone calls.

- Role-playing monthly on the analysis of investigations

Member Foster asked what did you learn from this? With 800 police employees the number of PSB investigations is low but there can always be room for improvement.

Foster continued were any policy changes made? *Allred said the external complaints come from citizens not knowing what police are doing. We are trying to change this through better communication.* Does this information go to City Council and the City Manager?

The City Manager receives monthly all info from the police. Do you go to the Rotary or other clubs around town? *Yes, not as many as we would like to due to not enough employees but anyone who wants us to go to his or her groups we would.* Long ago wasn't there a Police Review Board? *Yes, this is how the PSB was developed.*

Allred finished with our concern is to inform people so they are aware of what's going on.

*******Action Taken: Receive and file**

3. **Overview of Neighborhood Inspection Functions - OCI**

Deb Legge, OCI Supervisor discussed her part of the OCI department was responsible for housing code enforcement, board-ups, emergency demolition, illegal home occupations and graffiti. With the new Nuisance Abatement ordinance, we work closely with environmental health and the Police department. More people initiate cases this way and we jointly enforce. It was just approved to get another inspector to fill Julie Irvin's position. The staff works closely with Community Police, neighborhood courts and assists in the coordination of neighbor clean-ups. We total around 80 clean-ups a year.

Member Foster asked how do you inform citizens of violations? *We send notices of the violations to residents.* Do you go around to Neighborhood Association groups? *Legge commented inspectors could go to DAB'S and neighborhood meetings to speak. We offer publications in the newspaper as education and talking to people who may or may not know they are in violation.* **Foster** continued do you find out that people parking recreational vehicles in front yards is a major problem? *We offer Neighbor-to-Neighbor training to let people know what they can and can't do along with Neighborhood patrol, Citizens Academy training and publish information on parking issues also in the water bill inserts.*

Randy Sparkman, Commercial Zoning Supervisor gave a brief overview of his area. There is two staff covering the EAST/ WEST checking businesses not in compliance with the laws. *Sparkman's* department also works with MAPD for developments, complaints, Community Unit Plans, Board of Zoning Appeals and other OCI staff.

This department licenses drinking establishments, taverns, erotic bars, restaurants and garage sales with not all garage sales as licensed. We also check on signage throughout the city. Two staff members check billboards, wall, portable, and banners to regulate.

We pickup signs on city Right-Of-Way including political. **Member Shellenbarger** asked if anyone received fines for placing signs on the right-of-ways? *Sparkman stated only if they get caught.*

Member Wine asked about the consolidated enforcement nuisance code and where are we on this? *Legge responded we have been working this now for one year and are still in the first phase. OCI staff will be trained in Environmental Health issues to write up complaints and send notices and at this time, Community Police officers write citations on vehicles and tall weeds.*

*******Action Taken: Receive and file**

4. **Portable Storage Containers-Requested amendments to Unified Zoning Code and Possible Licensing of Portable Storage Container Companies**

Randy Sparkman, OCI department stated in the code provision, nothing is written for controlling outdoor portable storage. Portable storage containers are large metal storage containers used by retail establishments for inventory storage during holiday sales volumes. In 2000, *Sparkman's* office received many complaints about the portable storage containers due to aesthetics, increased noise, and blowing trash. This is a major zoning code violation. The City Manager's office reviewed the regulations after receiving complaints from businesses requesting to make the containers legal by changing the code. The proposed changes include screening requirements, eliminating temporary limits and allowing containers to remain year round; increasing the number of containers for small businesses and allowing large retailers to expand the number of containers for 3-4 months of the year. *Tom Olson*, a representative from the HOC Storage System stated he and his company agree with the aesthetic requirements and placement of the containers requested by the City. They are committed to abiding the ordinance.

The following are questions or comments from DAB members: *Answers in Italics*

- We compliment you on your work; you are very committed to working on quality of life issues with such limited staff.
- Can required parking be used for the containers? *No*
- Larger businesses have excessive number of parking stalls.
- The world is overrun with portable storage containers, it's very important on quality of appearance. Is anyone else working on this? *All departments and businesses have met. We are working with them on this issue.*
- Will the colors of these building have to match the major business building? *Yes, the colors should match the building or be neutral. Some companies have spent lots of money on this.*
- Is screening required? *Not absolute to be screened.*
- These portable buildings, what is the safety compliance for foundation and locks?
- Idea of businesses putting these containers wherever is nonsense.
- How big can these containers be? *40 ft. X 8 ft. wide= 8-9 ft. tall.*
- What if some one wants to buy and not rent these containers for permanent outdoors storage? *The owner would not need to apply for a license.*
- The potential for Quik Trip or a filling station to purchase a portable container would be easy. *The containers have to be 20 ft. from the property line. Merchandise closer to the store is what is needed.*
- This is out of hand we did not have enough time to review the info.
- These changes are not appropriate. No restrictions what so ever on this.
- DAB'S should work on this together and come to a solution

At this point, **Council Member Fearey** commented to DAB members they could make a motion to further review these changes with city staff. One member stated we should find out from other cities how the portable storage container issue has been approached in their areas and possibly review pictures. We should also find out from other DAB'S what their input is.

Fearey said the businesses felt the portable storage container issue needed to be reviewed so staff looked at it again. **Member Willis** stated a word of caution in how we proceed on this motion if we want to attract new businesses and then give them restrictions on what they can or can't do.

*******Action Taken: Motion to request for Portable Storage containers in the Unified Zoning Code regulations: (Wine/Bradley 6-4)**

- Analysis results #2 referring to temporary placement of 120 days be eliminated;
- Approve analysis results #1 & 3 for small businesses
- Analysis results # 2,4,5 & 6 to leave as currently zoned.

5. **Paving projects for Public Works**

Council Member Fearey stated she had asked staff to come and present all six paving cases that had recently been requested so she could get a recommendation from the DAB to support public hearings or if they felt possibly some of the paving requests did not need to proceed further. At this time, there was no notification to the area residents about these cases. Following are the streets to be considered:

- a. Mead Street, Central to 3rd Street
- b. Elm Street, Sheridan to Mt. Carmel
- c. East of Jackson
- d. Jackson to Waco
- e. Waco to Fairview
- f. Wellington to Market

Rob Younkin, Public works staff, presented on each individual case. All information, agenda reports, estimated assessments and maps were presented for members to review prior to the DAB meeting.

The following are questions or comments from DAB members: *Answers in Italics*

- We need to look at other cities pattern on paving dirt streets. *Good idea*
- Waco to Fairview, does cost include right of way acquisition? *We need to look at additional costs for right of way*
- Is curb & gutter included? *Yes*
- What about drainage and storm sewer? *In preliminary process of review*
- How about the time limit on the assessments? *15-20 year and people can change to what they want. 20 years for City Limits projects and for new development outside city limits= 20 yrs*
- Who asked for these to be ordered in? *Wendell Turner, previous president of the North Chisholm Creek neighborhood association.*
- All recommendations ask for a neighborhood hearing, why wouldn't we want to do this? *Depending on the information presented and the cost of the assessments for the neighbors needed to be considered.*
- My concern is with the Mead project since it's primarily industrial, why paving? *Owner requested and everything done on project will be assessed to owner. On the east side is KGE, is this a major access? Yes, substation is busy with in/out equipment and the City maintains it now. It costs more to maintain dirt streets.*

Chris MacDonald, 803 N. Sheridan. Due to the volume of traffic with access only to South, East & West from Zoo Blvd. we would appreciate this request of paving Elm street. After any rain the street turns into a washboard. I was told by Public Works to request DAB to review.

Member Bradley commented *Wendell* had worked hard on getting this and I support the case but the neighborhood on Elm probably won't like it.

*******Action Taken: Motion to recommend holding public hearing for all six paving cases. (Bradley/Escobar 10-0)**

BOARD AGENDA

6. Appointee for the Grants Review Committee

Member Escobar stated she had been on the past year's committee and would like to continue.

*******Action Taken: Motion made to appoint Jaya Escobar to serve on the committee. (Willis/Rumsey 10-0)**

7. Problem Properties

Member Foster noted the 21st street Braum's Ice cream store had burned and if our DAB should send a letter encouraging them to remain in the neighborhood. **Council Member Fearey** agreed and said she and the neighborhood assistant would put a letter together and send to the Braum's store. **Fearey** thanked **Foster** for his very good idea.

The SE corner of 21st and Broadway, the Flat Iron building has been damaged, like a car ran into it.

*******Action Taken: Receive and propose appropriate action.**

8. Neighborhood Reports

The Lights at St. Paul to assist the ARC will run from December 5 – 28th **WIN** will have a booth for the weekend activities and are in need of baked goods and volunteers to assist.

*******Action Taken: Receive and file**

UPDATES FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER

- December 17th we will have a second DAB Meeting and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is to be reviewed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

GUESTS

Ken Thomas	4725 Cobblestone Rd.	Kentthomas@treatcacom
Dan Fitzgerald	1309 N. Topeka	
Berle Willis	3834 Woodrow	
WR NATY	PO Box 982196	
Thomas O. Olson	PO Box 982196	
Jerry Prichard	1607 N. Clarence 67203 Hills Riverbend NA	
Chris MacDonald	803 N. Sheridan #1903 Wichita, Ks. 67203-4787	
Monique Garcia	2364 Marigold Wichita, Ks. 67204	mgarcia@sedgwick.gov
Erika Spencer	YMCA	

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Dozal
6th District Neighborhood Assistant